



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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GROUP 1700

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 17420

Serial No.: **09/977,363**

Examiner: **OLTMANS, Andrew L.**

Filed: **October 16, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4158

FOR: **RARE EARTH METAL-BASED PERMANENT MAGNET, AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 14, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the attached Chinese Office Action issued May 30, 2003, in connection with the corresponding Chinese application.

The reference cited therein (U.S. Patent No. 5,840,375) has already been made of record.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

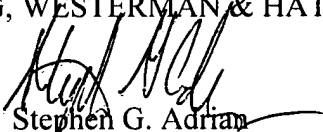
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a)

concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23850**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Chinese Patent Office - Office Action (w/translation)